

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WHY ALL AMERICANS SHOULD OPPOSE AN ATF NOMINEE WHO WANTS TO BAN THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I oppose the nomination of Steve Dettelbach to Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

Our right to meaningful self-defense, and the concomitant right to bear arms, was so important to the Founders that it preceded the right to due process, a speedy trial, and reasonable bail. That is how dangerous the Founders knew a tyrannical government could become. In order to protect those constitutional rights and those in the First Amendment—the right to speech, press, and assembly—citizens must have the means to do so.

And this right is not protected by the Constitution alone. It—and the very closely related right of self-defense—is a civil right as well—or a right that serves to guarantee America's foundational tenet of equality under the law.

All of President Biden's recent actions point to a very simple goal—he wants our guns. By taking our guns, he takes our right to self-defense. Coming at a time when crime is at record levels in most democrat-run cities, self-defense is not a theoretical discussion. The news is filled daily with citizens being attacked, raped, assaulted, maimed or otherwise hurt by assailants. Good people have the right and duty to defend themselves and their family. And, we have seen government overreach as well—tyrannical tendencies by the Biden Regime to imprison its political opponents and political dissidents. Currently almost 800 Americans have been arrested, many denied bail, for trespassing and other minor violations relating to January 6th, even though the favored criminals of the regime who looted, burned and murdered in the name of racial justice in 2020 walked away Scot free.

In a country that has enshrined the right to self-defense, the mere existence of the ATF is anathema to the Constitution. We have no government agency running roughshod over newspapers and radio stations seeking to “constrain” and “limit” the First Amendment. We have no government agency cracking down on the unbridled expectation and right to be secure in one's possessions. But we do have the ATF, whose mission is to violate a constitutional right.

The ATF recently and cleverly changed the definition of machine gun so that more guns would be considered illegal. ATF was caught red-handed recently compiling a registry of gun owners—an action explicitly contrary to federal law. And the DOJ just decided to serialize thousands and thousands more firearms and expand the registry already approaching one billion records.

The Biden administration wants there to be as big a paper trail as possible against those

wishing to exercise their constitutional right. And we know the ATF is making lists of gun owners who made legal purchases—and just announced plans to expand that list. Why would they need all this information? Because with more information, the easier it is to confiscate. The easier it is to blacklist. Citizens who oppose the regime have been added to secret lists in the hopes of prohibiting gun ownership. Without charges. Without a trial. And usually without notice. All of these ATF abuses are unconstitutional.

If Biden were serious about violent crime, he would be funding our police officers and rebuking Soros district attorneys for aiding and abetting violent criminals. Over 33 percent of first-time gun buyers in 2021 were women. Guns allow women to stand up to criminals who would otherwise overpower them.

The cure to rampant violent crime is well known by criminologists. Enforce the law. Every time. Throw violent thugs in jail for decades. Throw drug dealers in jail. For decades. Federal laws that did this in the 1990's worked wonders in reducing crime. The problem of violence is not an inanimate object. It is not a gun, a knife or a car that is to blame. It is always, always, in every instance, the operator of the gun, the knife or the car. Inanimate objects have no free will or ability to commit crimes. It is long past time we stop pretending they do. People are responsible for their own violent actions. The millions of law-abiding gun owners shall not be punished for the transgressions of the violent minority.

I am pursuing legislation in many areas to protect our right to defend ourselves from government. As the purpose of ATF's existence is to harass and criminalize gun ownership, it must be eliminated. I also support bills that codify a federal right to self-defense, prohibit the administration from criminalizing many legal guns owned by Americans for decades through crafty and illegal regulatory maneuvers, defund federal attempts to prop up state registries of gun ownership, and nullify all ATF regulations approved by this gun-grabbing administration.

The ATF nominee Dettelbach is of the apparent opinion that guns have free will and he blames the guns for violence. He is thus in favor of disarming as many people as possible. I have no confidence he will oppose Biden's radical agenda to destroy our Second Amendment, which is not only unconstitutional but immoral and a threat to democracy. I oppose his nomination and I urge all senators to oppose this radical and his usurpation of Constitutional rights.

LOGAN WYNES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Logan Wynes

for earning the Best in Show—Honorable Mention Award in the 2022 Congressional App Challenge.

As a first-time participant in the challenge, Logan built an app entitled “Carbon Calculators” to create a calculator to track an individual user's weekly carbon output as a way to decrease individual carbon output and ultimately encourage a carbon-neutral footprint.

Logan, an eleventh grader from Golden High School, spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding and app development while developing new skills and further advancing their STEM education. Their perseverance and dedication to this challenge exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at the school.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Logan Wynes for his hard work on this project. I am certain this student will exhibit the same dedication and character in his future accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck going forward.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
LISA TROLAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the career of Lisa Trolan, who retired from her work with General Dynamics Electric Boat, on December 23, 2021.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Trolan retires from a long, dedicated career that spans 35 years with Electric Boat. As a senior member of Electric Boat's Public Affairs team, Lisa welcomed thousands of visitors to the company's locations in Connecticut and Rhode Island and helped to highlight the skilled workforce of technological marvels produced by Electric Boat. In doing so, Lisa has acted as a staunch advocate for our community, representing a major employer within the region to attract businesses, suppliers, and employees alike.

A Groton, Connecticut native and a graduate of the University of Connecticut, Lisa has lived out a destiny of nurturing the growth of the very community that raised her. These foundational values trace all the way back to her upbringing under her parents, Julio and Frances, who also served the town of Groton well through their longstanding, respective roles with Groton Utilities and the public school system. It is no coincidence that Electric Boat's Connecticut headquarters is in Groton. It is also no surprise that even in retirement, Lisa remains an active supporter of local civic organizations as well as the University of Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Lisa's legacy with Electric Boat—one of excellence and commitment to its employees, the Navy and the Nation—is unrivaled. She has always prioritized giving back to her foundational roots and has played a direct part in adding oil to the economic engine that is Electric Boat. To that end, I ask

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that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Lisa Trolan on her well-earned retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. This bill would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, *Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB*, which stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from their jobs on grounds of ineligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to be no longer eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the decision to stand. This bill is cosponsored by Representative ANDRÉ CARSON.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal employees who are designated as "noncritical sensitive" from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision affects at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated as noncritical sensitive. Even more seriously, most federal employees could potentially lose the same right to an independent review of an agency's decision because of a rule by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that permits agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive, which went into effect in July 2015.

The *Kaplan* decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers required by the U.S. Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right of review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head and, in addition, makes a mockery of whistleblower protections enacted in the 112th Congress. This bill would stop the use of "national security" to undo a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LADD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments of

Norman Ladd of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District. Norman passed on from this life at age 84 years on March 21, 2022. He dedicated a total of 65 years to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Norman Ladd was born in Toledo, Ohio on August 11, 1937. He attended Macomber High School and graduated in 1955. Not long after, he began his apprenticeship with his local IBEW, Local 8. During his time with the IBEW, he served as treasurer, assistant business manager, and administrator of the Health and Wellness plan.

In the 1980's, Norman was elected the Executive Secretary of the Northwest Ohio Building Trades. He also served on the Toledo Zoning Board of Appeals, and more recently he sat on the Sylvania Zoning Board of Appeals.

As Adlai Stevenson II once said, "Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." Norman Ladd lived a life of dedication and passion, always ready to lend a hand when needed.

Today, we mourn his passing, and offer our deepest condolences to his wife and children. May they find some small measure in his legacy and the gift of his life to his family, friends, fellow tradesmen and women, and our community at large. Norm was a builder of family and community through good and rough times. His commitment and vigilance helped carry us forward together. May his life and works inspire others to emulate his goodwill and accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING STAN KELLY

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan Kelly of Winston-Salem and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement as CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership. With his departure from this position, he leaves the entire Piedmont region revitalized and ripe for North Carolina's next chapter in modern industry.

Stan began his distinguished career as a personal banker with Wachovia National Bank, a North Carolina-based financial institution. His industrious work ethic, charismatic personality, and keen intellect propelled him to the position of President of Wachovia's wealth management division in 2001. When Wachovia was acquired by Wells Fargo & Company in 2008, Stan was selected as the bank's regional president for the Carolinas. In this role, he ensured the brand transition from Wachovia to Wells Fargo was seamless for employees and clients, alike. His region of more than 450 branches consistently overperformed company expectations in customer service ratings, employee retention, and market share. Stan retired from Wells Fargo in 2014, leaving the company well-positioned for future success in the region.

In 2015, however, Stan was called out of retirement when the Piedmont Triad Partnership selected him as its President and CEO. For over 30 years, the Piedmont Triad Partnership has served as the region's umbrella organization for economic development and has

worked arduously to promote transformational commercial growth and success in the heart of North Carolina. The Partnership has been instrumental in building upon the Piedmont's proud history of agriculture, textiles, and furniture to facilitate new, robust sectors of industry including aviation and automotive manufacturing, as well as the emerging sector of regenerative medicine.

As President and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership, Stan again proved himself a remarkable leader. Under his direction, the Partnership launched the Carolina Core brand, a regional initiative to highlight existing infrastructure and develop industrial potential along the future 1-685 corridor. Regional leaders have united with Stan in promoting this economic engine capable of powering the Piedmont into the future. Stan's efforts in developing the Carolina Core have already been instrumental in attracting over 30 thousand new jobs in just five years.

Stan's other accomplishments extend far beyond financial services and economic development. Through various roles, such as Chair of the Board of Trustees of North Carolina State University and the Winston-Salem Foundation, he has studiously worked to give back to his local community and state. Earlier this month, he was honored with North Carolina's most prestigious civic award: The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Despite all of Stan's accomplishments, however, he is undoubtedly most proud of his loving family: his wife, their daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Stan Kelly for his invaluable contributions to the Piedmont Triad region and the state of North Carolina. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING FES SECURITY FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO EAST TENNESSEE'S COMMUNITIES

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 2022

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize FES Security as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. In April 1972, Frank Whitley started Frank's Electrical Service to meet the electrical needs of his community. Frank enlisted the help of his son, Dale, on the weekends and the work inspired Dale to earn a degree in electronics so he could help run the family business.

Frank and Dale soon noticed a growing demand for home security, so Dale took the lead in getting Frank's Electrical Service involved in the industry. This was a wise decision. The business quickly switched to specializing in home security and was rebranded as FES Security in the process.

Dale Whitley, now the owner of FES Security, is building on the successes of the company his father started. The business keeps up with modern technological advancements and FES Security offers digital security systems, products that are controllable through mobile devices, and cameras with video recording capabilities. The company also offers fire and gate systems, as well as home theatre and surround sound installation.

Although the scope of FES Security's work evolved throughout the years, its commitment